

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following claim listing replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims:

1. (currently amended) A data generating device, provided in an electronic endoscope, said device generating an image data corresponding to an object image obtained by said electronic endoscope, and character information including a date when said object image is obtained, said device comprising:

 a date-differentiating processor that generates said character information so that, when said date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with said object image:

 at least one of the year, month, and day is differentiated on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color different from the others; and

 the date is displayed in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, wherein said display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color or character type different from the others only for the period of a date-setting operation.

4. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets a mode of display of the year, month, and day so that said screen differentiates at least one of the month and day, of the displayed year, month, and day.

5. (original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the year, month, and day displayed by numerals, to a different color.

6-8. (canceled)

9. (original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the month and day, of the year, month, and day to be displayed by numerals, to a different color only for the period of the date setting operation.

10. (original) The device according to claim 4, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets the year, month, and day to be displayed by numerals to respectively different colors.

11-12. (canceled)

13. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said object image and date to be displayed on said screen are preferably stored as a single image in an image storage device.

14. (original) The device according to claim 13, wherein said object image stored in said image storage device is at least reproduced and displayed on said screen or output as hard copy.

15. (original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image, in an electronic file.

16. (original) The device according to claim 1, further comprising a display processor that displays said character information, generated by said date-differentiating processor, along with said object image, on said screen.

17. (original) The device according to claim 16, wherein said display processor comprises a character code output processor that outputs a character code corresponding to said date, and a character signal generating processor that generates a character signal in accordance with said character code output by said character code output processor, said character signal being output, along with a video signal corresponding to said object image, to a monitor provided outside said electronic endoscope, so that said object image is displayed on said screen and said date is displayed at a predetermined position on said screen.

18. (original) The device according to claim 17, wherein said date-differentiating processor outputs said character code in such a manner that one of the year, month, and day, to be differentiated from the others, is displayed in a mode of display which is different from that of the others.

19. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

 a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image

on a screen, wherein the display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order; and

 a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image;

 said storing processor configured to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day by storing one of the year, month, and day by a different color in said image storage device.

20. (canceled)

21. (original) The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein said storing processor stores the year, month, and day in said image storage device to enable at least the month and day in the year, month, and day to be differentiated on said screen.

22. (previously presented) The electronic endoscope according to claim 21, wherein said storing processor stores one of the month and day in the year, month, and day by a different color in said image storage device.

23. (original) The electronic endoscope according to claim 21, wherein said storing processor stores the year, month, and day displayed by numerals by different colors in said image storage device.

24-25. (canceled)

26. (original) The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein said image stored in said image storage device is at least reproduced and displayed on said screen or output as hard copy.

27. (original) The electronic endoscope according to claim 19, wherein said storing processor comprises a character code output processor that outputs a character code corresponding to said date, and a character signal generating processor that generates a character signal in accordance with said character code output by said character code output processor, said character signal being output, along with a video signal corresponding to said object image, to said image storage device, so that said date is stored in said image storage device along with said image.

28. (original) The electronic endoscope according to claim 27, wherein said storing processor outputs said character code in such a manner that one of the year, month, and day, to be differentiated from the others, is displayed in a mode of display which is different from that of the others.

29. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image on a screen, wherein the display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order; and

a date-differentiating processor that sets the mode of display of the year, month, and day to be displayed by said display processor so as to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a color different from the others.

30. (currently amended) A data generating device for an electronic endoscope, the data generating device comprising:

an image data generator configured to generate image data corresponding to an object image obtained by the electronic endoscope; and

a date-differentiating processor configured to:

generate character information including a date, such that when the date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with the object image said date-differentiating processor differentiates at least one of year, month and day on the screen by setting one of the year, month, and day to a color different from the other of the year, month and day; and

wherein switchably display, via a switching operation, an order of the displayed date is switchably displayable from among the year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year.

31. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to selectively and switchably display, along with an object image on a screen and via a switching operation, an order of a date from among year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year; and

a storing processor configured to:

store the date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image; and

store the at least one of one of the year, month, and day of the date by a different color in said image storage device.

32. (not entered)

33. (currently amended) A data generating device, provided in an electronic endoscope, said device generating an image data corresponding to an object image obtained by said electronic endoscope, and character information including a date when said object image is obtained, said device comprising:

a date-differentiating processor that generates said character information so that, when said date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with said object image:

at least one of the year, month, and day is differentiated on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a font different from the others; and

the date is displayed in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, wherein said display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order.

34. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image on a screen, wherein said display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order; and

a storing processor that stores said date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image;

said storing processor configured to differentiate at least one of the year, month, and day by storing one of the year, month, and day by a different font in said image storage device.

35. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to display a date in an order of at least one of year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year, along with an object image on a screen; and

a date-differentiating processor that sets the mode of display of the year, month, and day to be displayed by said display processor so as to differentiate at least one of the year,

month, and day on said screen, wherein said date-differentiating processor sets one of the year, month, and day to a font different from the others, wherein said display order can be changed on said screen by a switching operation of the display order.

36. (currently amended) A data generating device for an electronic endoscope, the data generating device comprising:

an image data generator configured to generate image data corresponding to an object image obtained by the electronic endoscope; and

a date-differentiating processor configured to:

generate character information including a date, such that when the date is displayed on a screen of a display device along with the object image said date-differentiating processor differentiates at least one of year, month and day on the screen by setting one of the year, month, and day to a font different from the other of the year, month and day; and wherein switchably display, via a switching operation, an order of the displayed date is switchably displayable from among the year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year.

37. (currently amended) An electronic endoscope comprising:

a display processor configured to selectively and switchably display, along with an object image on a screen and via a switching operation, an order of a date from among year, month and day; month, day and year; and day, month and year; and

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a storing processor configured to:

store the date along with said object image in an image storage device as a single image; and

store the at least one of one of the year, month, and day of the date by a different font in said image storage device.